

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A communication device plane having a high
speed bus for interconnecting a plurality of
5 modules, said device comprising:
 a plurality of first connectors for receiving a
plurality of first modules, said plurality of first
connectors being arranged in parallel with each
other and longitudinally with respect to the length
10 of said device, and being mounted to said
communication device substantially centrally
thereon, each of said first connectors extending so
as to substantially cover the length of said device;
 a plurality of second connectors for receiving
15 a plurality of second modules, said second
connectors being substantially parallel to said
first connectors and being mounted to said
communication device in groups on both sides of said
plurality of first connectors such that two of said
20 groups on each side may be disposed longitudinally
with respect to each other.
2. A plane according to claim 1 wherein, when
said first and second modules are connected thereto,
25 the layout of the modules on said device is
substantially H-shaped.
3. A plane according to claim 1 wherein said
plurality of second connectors is arranged in such a
30 manner as to allow for maximum module densities.
4. A plane according to claim 1 wherein said
plurality of second connectors is disposed in a
staggered arrangement on the communication device,
35 allowing for maximum densities of alternating
modules in a front row and a back row.

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5. A plane according to claim 1 wherein the length of the device is less than twice the length of one of said second modules.

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6. A plane according to claim 1 further comprising:

a plurality of third connectors for receiving a plurality of third modules, said plurality of third connectors being arranged such that they are co-linear with said first modules.

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7. A plane according to claim 6 wherein said third connectors are disposed on either side of said first modules.

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8. A plane according to claim 6 wherein the length of the device is slightly longer than the length of one of said first modules.

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9. A plane according to claim 1 wherein one or more of said first modules comprises a switch module.

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10. A plane according to claim 1 wherein one or more of said second modules comprises an access and processing module.

11. A plane according to claim 6 wherein one or more of said third modules comprises an additional function module.

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12. A plane according to claim 1 wherein said plane is a single sided backplane.

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13. A plane according to claim 1 wherein said

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plane is a double sided midplane.

14. A plane according to claim 6 wherein said
5 plane is a single sided backplane.

15. A plane according to claim 6 wherein said
plane is a double sided midplane.

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